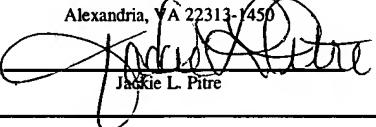




**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/697,793  
Confirmation No.: 1158  
Filing Date: October 30, 2003  
Inventors: Landry et al.  
Title: SPINAL STABILIZATION  
SYSTEMS AND METHODS

§ Examiner: unknown  
§ Art Unit: 3738  
§ Atty. Dkt. No.: 5259-10705

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.8	
DATE OF DEPOSIT: <u>3/29/04</u>	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail on the date indicated above and is addressed to:	
Commissioner for Patents Alexandria, VA 22313-1450	
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**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Mail Stop Missing Parts  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims that begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 10 of this paper.